(CIRCULAR.)

EPISCOPAL RESIDENCE,

CHATHAM, N. B., Feb. 10, 1877.

REV. AND DEAR SIR, —

Since the first cable-gram from Europe on last Thursday night announcing the demise on that afternoon of Our Most Holy Father, Pope Pius IX., the Newspapers of each succeeding day have published further details confirming the first melancholy announcement of the Pope's death. Though we have no more authentic information than what the newspapers contain, we fear that there is too much reason to regard it as correct.

Therefore, we have announced at Mass to-day the aforesaid afflicting news in order to request the prayers of the Faithful for the repose of the Soul of our late Venerated Sovereign Pontiff; also that as next Friday, the 15th of February, inst., the ninth day after the Pope's decease, will, according to usage, be the day of his sepulture and final obsequies in St. Peter's Church at Rome, a Solemn High Mass of Requiem preceded by the Office of the Dead will be chanted for His late Holiness in our Pro-Cathedral at Chatham, on that morning by the Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese, at which you are hereby respectfully invited to attend.

Also, be pleased to request the prayers of your flock for our deceased beloved Holy Father, as well as their prayers that God may graciously guide and direct all those whose office it is to elect a Successor in the Chair of Peter, that the new Sovereign Pontiff to be elected be a man after God's own heart, worthy of his great predecessor in the Papal Chair, and endued with the light and strength of the Holy Ghost, to govern the universal flock of Christ in wisdom, peace, and every spiritual comfort.

For this end we ordain that instead of the Collect *Pio Papa* hitherto ordered, the Collects of the Mass, *Pro eligendo Summo Pontifici* be added at each Mass when the Rubrics permit, by the Reverend Clergy of our Diocese, until the new Pope's Election be authentically known.

Begging the "Giver of all good gifts" to bless, comfort and protect you and all of us in this hour of general affliction!

I remain,

Rev. and Dear Sir,

Your humble and faithful Servant in Jesus Christ.

†JAMES ROGERS,

BISHOP OF CHATHAM.

By Order of His Lordship the Bishop,

MICHAEL JOYCE, Sec'y.